

# ENVIRONMENT

## GOAL

Protect and enhance our natural environment for current residents and future generations.

The City implements comprehensive natural resource management system

So that...

Kirkland protects and enhances its natural environment

So that...

Current and future residents of Kirkland enjoy a healthy natural environment and resources

MEASURE	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Target
Compliance with NPDES Stormwater Permits	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Recycling Diversion Rate	52.7%	53.7%	54.5%	53.9%	54.8%	Increase
City building electricity use (kilowatt/hour)	2,787,817	2,491,759	3,696,204*	3,532,456	3,664,878**	Decrease
City building natural gas usage (therm)	64,733	103,196	91,946*	95,927	111,938***	Decrease
Waste entering landfill from residences (tons)	22,033	21,840	21,742	21,869	20,980	Annual 2.5% decrease
Annual reduction in City's greenhouse gas emissions as a percent of 2005 levels	21%	14%	16%	-2.98%	.39%	80 % below 2005 levels by 2050

\*First full year of facility operations for the Kirkland Justice Center.

\*\* Note that 2015 – 2017 electricity fluctuations are due in part to City Hall remodel construction. Stabilized usage figures should be available for the 2018 report.

\*\*\* Puget Sound Energy notes that 2017 was much colder than 2016 and customers saw higher usage as a result. Staff will be evaluating usage by facility to determine if there are other factors contributing.

## HOW DO WE MEASURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY?

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permit compliance encompasses a wide range of actions the City undertakes to improve surface water quality. Recycling diversion rates and waste entering the landfill both measure the effect of the City's waste reduction efforts. High resolution satellite imagery and remote sensing and geographic information system (GIS) mapping is used to determine the amount of tree leaf surface covering a large area.

Surface water grate along Park Lane.





City of Kirkland staff (left to right: Tracy Durnell, John MacGillivray, and Jenna McInnis) receive the Public Agency Recycler of the Year award.

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

In 2017, the City of Kirkland continued to work on reducing waste, and recycling and composting more. The combined single family and multifamily residential recycling diversion rate was 54.8 percent, up from 53.9 percent in 2016. The City of Kirkland was awarded Public Agency Recycler of the Year by the Washington State Recycling Association, in recognition of the City's Solid Waste Division's innovative programs and leadership in recycling.

## WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The City entered into a voluntary, long-term agreement with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) to provide nearly all of the City's electricity use through PSE's Green Direct program, which allows participants to directly invest in a specific renewable energy project while also locking into a stable and predictable price for electricity for ten years. This action will help remove the City's electricity costs from a sometimes-volatile and unpredictable energy market. PSE estimates that the City's use of Green Direct power will provide a reduction of 3,250,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>.

City staff partnered with a local consultant to improve offerings for multifamily audiences. This work is ongoing, but has led to a website revamp, organization of materials, and onsite technical assistance at properties. Kirkland continues to offer special recycling collection events for tricky-to-recycle items, like mattresses, batteries, and electronics. The City continued to hold its popular monthly StyroFest events, offering a collection point for expanded polyethylene foam (EPS), and plastic bags for local residents. The City hosted its second

successful Halloween Costume Swap, a community event for sharing Halloween costumes and accessories.

The City expanded the availability of food scraps composting for multifamily residents in 2017. While there is a free optional composting program available for multifamily properties, some properties do not participate. To ensure that anyone who wants to compost can, Kirkland opened up community food scrap drop off locations. Residents can collect their food scraps at home, and bring them to the collection bins at Kirkland City Hall. There is also a food scrap drop off at North Kirkland Community Center.

For businesses, Kirkland launched its new green business program, EnviroStars. EnviroStars is a regional green business program, meaning one program for Kirkland, Seattle, Bellevue, Redmond, and beyond. This one-stop-shop program helps businesses take new environmental actions and get recognized for the work they're already doing. EnviroStars is a collaboration that makes it easier for businesses to take action, and easier for customers to support green businesses.



Above: food scrap collection bins at Kirkland City Hall.



The 2017 Costume Swap hosted at City Hall.